



HAMPSHIRE & IOW SOCIAL PRESCRIBING NETWORK

WHY SOCIAL PRESCRIBING WORKS?

The Influence and Role of Local Infrastructure Organisations

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- Background of NAVCA
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What is local VCSE Infrastructure

... the beating heart of a community's voluntary sector



What does that mean in practice?

- 196 member LIOs working with
- 200,000+ local VCSE organisations
- Covering a very diverse range of delivery areas and activity
- Impacting the lives of people every day!



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Why Social Prescribing?

In 2022, NASP, Spirit of 2012 and NAVCA formed a partnership to increase the impact of social prescribing. This project aims to deliver increased impact and patient outcomes of social prescribing by:

- creating **stronger connections** between local VCSE infrastructure organisations (**LIOs**) and **stakeholders** involved in social prescribing **at a national, regional, system and place level**
- supporting **increased co-design/production** of social prescribing **infrastructure**

What did we set out to learn?

The **scoping phase** of the project aimed to identify gaps and actions to take forward to further support the development of local social prescribing delivery and was guided by **3 key questions**:

1. What different models of social prescribing delivery and hosting exist and which work well?
2. How do local VCSE host organisations ensure the social prescribing offer is good quality and what resources exist to support this?
3. How do SPLWs access information about community assets?



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Key findings #1 – Models of delivery for Social Prescribing

The project focused on three models for SPLW employment (i.e. hosting): (1) PCN host; (2) LIO host (including partially subcontracting out); (3) other VCSE organisation hosting.

- **Wherever the hosting takes place, by PCN or VCSE (whether by the LIO or another VCSE), there is a variability of involvement in SP in an area, by the PCN , LIO, VCSE and other stakeholders, that impacts delivery.**

‘The pandemic has changed the role and I don’t know if we will ever get back to true social prescribing.’

SPLW employed directly by a PCN



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‘Our approach is allowing the client to write the prescription’

SPLW manager in a VCSE organisation

Key findings #2 – How do local VCSE host organisations ensure the social prescribing offer is good quality?

- No standardised quality assurance mechanisms specifically for SP delivery in the VCSE exist.
- The NHSE Maturity Matrix and updated Workforce Development Framework, address quality assurance for systems but are often not utilised effectively by hosts in the VCSE.
- VCSE host organisations use their own experiences and knowledge to develop safe and effective services but would like a simple and clear template for a structure of a SP approach across their area.

Key findings #3 – Accessing information about community assets

- Directories of community services are important but are not the only tool SPLWs use for linking people to assets; SPLWs getting out into the community to engage with activity providers is the best route for ‘successful referrals’.
- Local directories that are resourced, maintained and link up with referral systems are the most useful to the SP journey.

‘Don’t quality assess us; provide resource so we can provide a quality service!’

VCSE provider of activity used for
SPLW referrals



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Recommendations #1: Models of delivery for Social Prescribing

- Develop guidance for a consistent mechanism of involving all partners and stakeholders in delivering a SP service in a place, with the VCSE host organisation and/or LIO at the heart of the model.

Recommendations #2: Ensuring a Quality Offer

- Develop a SP QA framework specifically for hosting LIO's and other VCSE organisations
- Bring together support resources for SP practice and delivery (e.g. training, guidance, toolkits, case studies) from national bodies into a coherent and user-friendly document with live links, updated regularly and disseminated to host organisations and the wider VCSE.

Recommendations #3 – Accessing information about community assets

- Develop and share clear guidance on developing sustainable local directories of VCSE activity for SP with LIOs and share best practice through links with Thriving Communities Regional Leads.



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**Please contact me for further
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